

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SP-02 SOE-02 AF-10
ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 DOE-15
CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00
/152 W

-----069521 211108Z /20

P 211006Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9306

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 05269

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, SOPN, UR

SUBJECT: CSCE: SOVIETS POSITIVE, BUT UNENTHUSIASTIC

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ABOUT BELGRADE

1. THE SOVIET ASSESSMENT OF THE JUST FINISHED BELGRADE
CONFERENCE HAS BEEN SLOW IN DEVELOPING AND CAUTIOUS,
BUT POSITIVE, IN TONE. THE MEETINGS ENDED WITH ROUTINE,
ALMOST PERFUNCTORY, MENTION IN PRAVDA AND OTHER CENTRAL
MEDIA. COMMENTARY BY SOVIET CSCE REPRESENTATIVE

YURI V MONTSOV (TASS INTERVIEW MARCH 9 AND PRESS

CONFERENCE ON MARCH 17), PRAVDA POLITICAL COMMENTATOR MAI PODKLYUCHNIKOV (MARCH 12) VAND SENIOR

IZVESTIYA COMMENTATOR V. MATVEYEV (MARCH 15) HAVE ALL BEEN OF A PIECE. THEY DESCRIBE THE RESULTS AS "POSITIVE" AND CRITICIZE THE U.S. AND OTHER UNNAMED NATO COUNTRIES FOR TRYING TO TURN THE CONFERENCE TOWARDS "PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE" AND "IDEOLOGICAL COLLISION" (VORONTSOV), AND OF "TAKING UP ARMS AGAINST THE DETENTE PROBESS" (MATVEYEV). THE COMMENTARIES LACK ANY INDICATION OF ENTHUSIASM OR BRAVADO ABOUT THE MEETINGS OR THE SUCCESS WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN CLAIMED FOR THE SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEANS FOR "INITIATIVES," ALTHOUGH THESE ARE MENTIONED, OF COURSE, AND PRAISED.

2. VORONTSOV'S PRESS CONFERENCE, A SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL EVENT, INDICATES THE SOVIETS WISH TO STRIKE BACK AT WHAT THEY SEE AS CONTINUING WESTERN CRITICISM OF THE SOVIET POSITION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS OF BELGRADE AND ON THE FINAL DOCUMENT. THE HR ISSUE AND VORONTSOV'S RELATED ATTACKS ON THE U.S. CSCE DELEGATION AND OTHER WESTERN DELEGATIONS WERE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN HIS HOUR AND A HALF MEETING
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WITH THE PRESS. CONCERNING THOSE IN THE WEST WHO HAVE A NEGATIVE ESTIMATION OF BELGRADE, VORONTSOV STATED THAT THIS COULD ONLY BE THE CASE FOR THOSE WHO HOPED TO "REVISE THE FINAL ACT" AND "LEGALIZE INTERFERENCE" IN OTHERS' INTERNAL AFFAIRS. A FURTHER INDICATION OF SOVIET SENSITIVITY OVER WESTERN CRITICISM OF BELGRADE'S RESULTS IS A LONG, CRITICAL REPORT ON THE BRITISH CSCE "WHITE PAPER" BY TASS COMMENTATOR N. GRIGOR'YEV IN KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, MARCH 15.

3. THIS LUKEWARM ATTITUDE TOWARDS BELGRADE WHICH COMES THROUGH IN THE PUBLIC COMMENT WAS MADE EXPLICIT BY MATVEYEV IN A CONVERSATION WITH A FRENCH EMBOFF RECENTLY IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED THE SOVIET ASSESSMENT OF BELGRADE AS ON BALANCE "MORE SATISFACTION THAN DISSATISFACTION." MATVEYEV, WHO HAS COVERED THE BELGRADE MEETINGS CONTINUALLY, CLAIMED THAT BELGRADE, FROM THE SOVIET POINT OF VIEW, WAS NOT AS POSITIVE AS HELSINKI AND, PREDICTABLY, THAT THE FAULT FOR THIS LIES SOLELY WITH THE WEST. HE HELD AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG PERSONALLY AND CHIEFLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS RESULT, ASSERTING THAT THE SOVIETS CONSIDER THAT THE AMBASSADOR

WAS A VERY TALENTED INDIVIDUAL WHO FAILED TO EXERCISE
THOSE TALENTS AT BELGRADE AND THAT HIS ACTIONS LED
THE SOVIETS TO CONCLUDE THAT A SUBSTANTIVE FINAL
DOCUMENT WAS NOT POSSIBLE. THE RESULT WAS A SOVIET
DECISION TAKEN - HE IMPLIED RELUCTANTLY - DURING
THE DEC-JAN RECESS TO CLOSE WITH A GENERAL STATEMENT
AND TO ACCEPT NO REFERENCES TO SPECIFIC ISSUES IN
THE FINAL DOCUMENT.

4. THERE IS NO SUGGESTION IN ANY OF THIS POST-
CONFERENCE COMMENTARY THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE REDUCED
THEIR SUPPORT FOR CONTINUING THE CSCE PROCESS OR
FOR HOLDING ANOTHER BELGRADE-TYPE CONFERENCE. ALL
INDICATORS ARE THAT THEY WISH TO PURSUE THE COURSE
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WITH "NEW ENERGY" (MATVEYEV) AND IN RESPONSE TO

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 NSCE-00
SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02
SP-02 PA-01 DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06
/154 W

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P 211006Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9307
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 05269

THE "EXPECTATIONS OF THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE" (VORONTSOV).
TOON

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Message Attributes

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